A COLLECTION

Of all the

ACTS of PARLIAMENT,

WITH

PUBLICK PAPERS

AND

DECLARATIONS

Relating to the

CLERGY

AND

ECCLESIASTICAL Affairs

Within the Kingdom of

SCOTLAND

Since the

REVOLUTION.

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TO THE

READER.

THE *following Collection of* Publick Papers, Laws, *and* Declarations, *relating chiefly to the Eccleſiaſtical Affairs of* Scotland *ſince the Revolution, are Reprinted with no other deſign, than to let the* Engliſh Reader *have a true account of the preſent Legal Eſtabliſhment of that Kingdom, with regard to Church Matters. The different Relations of the two contending Parties, are (it may be) too much tinctured with Paſſion and Partiality, the one*

 aggravating

7667 COLLECTION of all the Acts of Parliament, with Publick Papers and Declarations relating to the Clergy and Ecclesiastical Affairs within the Kingdom of Scotland since the Revolution, sm. 4to, *unbound*, 4s 6d (L 5)
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aggravating their former Sufferings, and the other complainiug of their preſent Miſeries, I think the Laws *and* Publick Papers *give a fairer Narration of their Conſtitution, than the Narratives of ſuch as are Byaſs'd for or againſt either Party.*

THE

ACT Abolishing Prelacy.

July 22. 1689.

WHEREAS the Estates of this Kingdom in their Claim of Right, of the Eleventh of *April* last, Declared, that Prelacy, and the Superiority of any Office in the Church above Presbyters, Is and hath been a great and insupportable Grievance to this Nation, and contrary to the Inclinations of the generality of the People, ever since the Reformation, they having Reformed from Popery by Presbyters, and therefore ought to be Abolished: OUR SOVERAIGN LORD and LADY, the King and Queens Majesties, with Advice and Consent of the Estates of Parliament, Do hereby Abolish Prelacy, and all Superiority of any Office in the Church in this Kingdom above Presbyters; and hereby Rescinds, Casses and Annulls the First *Act* of the Second *Sess.* of the First *Parl.* of King *Charles* the Second, and the Second *Act* of the Third *Sess.* of the First *Parl.* of King *Charles* the Second, and the Fourth *Act* of the Third Parliament of King *Charles* he Second, and all other Acts, Statutes and Constitutions, in so far allanerly as they are inconsistent with this Act, and do establish Prelacy, or the Superiority of Church-Officers above Presbyters. And the King and Queens Majesties Do Declare, that They, with Advice and Consent of the Estates of this Parliament, will Settle by Law that Church-Government in this Kingdom, which is most agreeable to the Inclinations of the People.

ACT Rescinding the First Act of the Second Parliament, 1669.

April 25. 1690.

OUR SOVERAIGN LORD and LADY, the King and Queens Majesties, taking into Their Consideration, that by the Second Article of the Grievances presented to Their Majesties, by the Estates of this Kingdom; It is Declared, that the First Act of the Second Par-

liament of King *Charles* the Second, Entituled, *Act aſſerting His Majeſty's Supremacy over all Perſons, and in all Cauſes Eccleſiaſtical*, is inconſiſtent with the Eſtabliſhment of the Church-Government now deſired, and ought to be Abrogate. Therefore Their Majeſties, with Advice and Conſent of the Eſtates of Parliament, do hereby Abrogat, Reſcind and Annul the foreſaid Act, and Declares the ſame in the whole Heads, Articles and Clauſes thereof, to be of no force or effect in all time coming.

ACT Reſtoring the Presbyterian Miniſters, who were thruſt from their Churches ſince the firſt of January, 1661.

April 25. 1690.

FORASMUCH, as by an Act of this preſent Parliament, relative to, and in proſecution of the Claim of Right, Prelacy, and the Superiority of Church-Officers above Presbyters, is aboliſhed; and that many Miniſters of the Presbyterian Perſwaſion, ſince the Firſt of *January*, One thouſand ſix hundred ſixty one, have been deprived of their Churches, or baniſhed for not conforming to Prelacy, and not complying with the courſes of the time. Therefore Their Majeſties, with Advice and Conſent of the Eſtates of Parliament, Ordain and Appoint, that all theſe Presbyterian Miniſters yet alive, who were thruſt from their Charges ſince the firſt day of *January*, One thouſand ſix hundred ſixty one, or baniſhed for not Conforming to Prelacy, and not complying with the courſes of the time, have forthwith free acceſs to their Churches, that they may preſently exerciſe the Miniſtry in theſe Pariſhes, without any new Call thereto; and allows them to bruik and enjoy the Beneſices and Stipends thereunto belonging, and that for the whole Cropt One thouſand ſix hundred eighty nine, and immediately to enter the Churches and Manſes, where the Churches are vacant, and where they are not vacant, then their entry thereto is Declared to be the half of the Benefice and Stipend, due and payable at *Michaelmaß* laſt, for the half year immediately preceeding, betwixt *Whitſunday* and *Michaelmaß*; Declaring that the preſent Incumbent ſhall have right to the other half of the Stipend and Benefice payable for the *Whitſunday* laſt by paſt: And to this effect that theſe Miniſters may meet with no ſtop or hinderance, in entering immediately to their Charges, the preſent Incumbents

bents in such Churches, are hereby appointed upon Intimation hereof, to desist from their Ministry in these Parishes, and to remove themselves from the Manses and Gleibs thereunto belonging, betwixt and *Whitsunday* next to come, that the Presbyterian Ministers formerly put out, may enter peaceably thereto. And appoints the Privy Council to see this Act put to execution.

ACT Ratifying the Confession of Faith, and Settling Presbyterian Church Government.

June 7. 1690.

OUR SOVERAIGN LORD and LADY, the King and Queens Majesties, and three Estates of Parliament, conceiving it to be their bound Duty, after the great Deliverance that God hath lately wrought for this Church and Kingdom, in the first place to settle and secure therein, the true Protestant Religion, according to the truth of God's Word, as it hath of a long time been professed within this Land: As also, the Government of Christ's Church within this Nation, agreeable to the Word of God, and most conducive to the advancement of true Piety and Godliness, and the Establishing of Peace and Tranquility within this Realm; and that by an Article of the Claim of Right, it is Declared, That Prelacy, and the Superiority of any Office in the Church above Presbyters, is, and hath been a great and unsupportable Grievance and Trouble to this Nation, and contrary to the inclinations of the generality of the people ever since the Reformation, they have Reformed from Popery by Presbyters, and therefore ought to be Abolished; Likeas, by an *Act* of the last *Session* of this *Parliament*, Prelacy is Abolished: Therefore Their Majesties, with Advice and Consent of the saids three Estates, Do hereby Revive, Ratifie and perpetually Confirm, all Laws, Statutes and Acts of Parliament, made against Popery and Papists, and for the Maintainance and Preservation of the true Reformed *Protestant* Religion, and for the true Church of Christ within this Kingdom, in so far as they Confirm the same, or are made in favours thereof. Likeas, they by these presents, Ratifie and Establish the *Confession of Faith*, now read in their presence, and Voted and Approven by them, as the publick and avowed Confession of this Church, containing the sum and substance of the Doctrine of the Reformed Churches;

(which

(which Confeſſion of Faith is ſubjoyned to this preſent Act.) As alſo, They do Eſtabliſh, Ratify, and Confirm the *Presbyterian Church-Government* and *Diſcipline*: That is to ſay, the Government of the Church by Kirk-Seſſions, Presbyteries, Provincial Synods, and General Aſſemblies, Ratified and Eſtabliſhed by the 114 *Act*, *Ja.* 6. *Parl.* 12. *anno* 1592. Entituled, *Ratification of the Liberty of the true Kirk*, &c. And thereafter received by the general conſent of this Nation, to be the only Government of Chriſt's Church within this Kingdom; Reviving, Renewing, and Confirming the foreſaid Act of Parliament, in the whole Heads thereof, except that part of it relating to Patronages, which is hereafter to be taken into Conſideration: and Reſcinding, Annulling, and making void the Acts of Parliament following, *viz.* *Act anent Reſtitution of Biſhops*, *Ja.* 6. *Par.* 18. *Cap.* 2. *Act Ratifying the Acts of the Aſſembly*, 1610. *Ja.* 6. *Par.* 21. *Cap.* 1. *Act anent the Election of Arch-biſhops and Biſhops*, *Ja.* 6. *Par.* 22. *Cap.* 1. *Act* Entituled, *Ratefication of the five Articles of the General Aſſembly at* Perth, *Ja.* 6. *Par.* 23. *Cap.* 1. *Act* Entituled, *For the Reſtitution, and Re-eſtabliſhment of the ancient Government of the Church, by Arch-biſhops and Biſhops*, *Cha.* 2. *Par.* 1. *Seſs* 2. *Act* 1*ſt*, *Act anent the Conſtitution of a National Synod*, *Ch.* 2. *Par.* 1. *Seſs.* 3. *Act* 6. *Act againſt ſuch as refuſe to Depone againſt Delinquents*, *Ch.* 2. *Par.* 2. *Seſs.* 2. *Act* 2. *Act* Entituled, *Act asknowledging and aſſerting the Right of Succeſſion to the Imperial Crown of* Scotland, *Ch.* 2. *Par.* 3. *Act.* 2. *Act* Entituled, *Act anent Religion and the Teſt*, *Ch.* 2. *Par.* 3. *Act* 6. With all other Acts, Laws, Statutes, Ordinances and Proclamations, and that in ſo far allanerly as the ſaids Acts and others generally and particularly above-mentioned, are contrary, or prejudicial to, inconſiſtent with, or derogatory from, the *Proteſtant* Religion, and *Presbyterian* Government, now Eſtabliſhed; and Allowing and Declaring, That the Church Government be Eſtabliſhed in the hands of, and Exerciſed by, theſe *Presbyterian* Miniſters, who were Outed ſince the firſt of *January*, 1661, For Non-conformity to Prelacy, or not complying with the Courſes of the Times, and are now Reſtored by the late Act of Parliament, and ſuch Miniſters and Elders only as they have admitted, or received, or ſhall hereafter admit, or receive: And alſo, that all the ſaid *Presbyterian* Miniſters have, and ſhall have Right to the Maintenance, Rights, and other Priviledges, by Law provided, to the Miniſters of Chriſt's Church within this Kingdom, as they are, or ſhall be legally admitted to particular Churches. Likeas in purſuance of the Premiſſes, Their Majeſties, Do hereby appoint the firſt meeting of the General Aſſembly of this Church, as above Eſtabliſhed, to be at *Edinburgh*, the

the third *Thurſday* of *October* next to come, in this inſtant year, 1690. And becauſe many Conform Miniſters either have deſerted, or were removed from Preaching in their Churches, preceeding the thirteenth day of *April*, 1689. And others were deprived, for not giving obedience to the Act of the Eſtates, made the 13 of *April*, 1689. Entituled, *Proclamation againſt the owning of the late King* James, *and appointing Publick Prayers for King* William *and Queen* Mary: Therefore Their Majeſties with Advice and Conſent aforeſaid, Do hereby Declare all the Churches, either Deſerted, or from which the conform Miniſters were removed, or deprived, as ſaid is, to be Vacant, and that the *Presbyterian* Miniſters exerciſing their Miniſtry, within any of theſe Paroches, (or where the laſt Incumbent is dead) by the deſire or conſent of the Paroch, ſhall continue their Poſſeſſion, and have Right to the Benefices and Stipends, according to their entry in the year 1689, and in time coming, ay and while the Church, as now Eſtabliſhed, take further courſe therewith. And to the effect, the Diſorders that have hapned in this Church, may be Redreſſed: Their Majeſties, with Advice and Conſent foreſaid, Do hereby allow the general Meeting, and Repreſentatives of the foreſaid *Presbyterian* Miniſters and Elders, in whoſe hands the Exerciſe of the Church Government is Eſtabliſhed, either by themſelves, or by ſuch Miniſters and Elders, as ſhall be appointed and Authorized Viſitors by them, according to the cuſtom and practice of *Presbyterian* Government throughout the whole Kingdom, and ſeveral parts thereof, to try and purge out, all inſufficient, negligent, ſcandalous and erroneous Miniſters, by due courſe of Eccleſiaſtical Proceſs, and Cenſures; and likeways, for Redreſſing all other Church-Diſorders. And further, it is hereby provided, that whatſoever Miniſter, being conveened before the ſaid General Meeting, and Repreſentatives of the *Presbyterian* Miniſters and Elders, or the Viſitors to be appointed by them, ſhall either prove contumacious in not appearing, or be found Guilty, and ſhall be therefore Cenſured, whether by Suſpenſion, or Depoſition, they ſhall *Ipſo Facto* be Suſpended from, or Deprived of their Stipends and Benefices.

ACT

ACT for Viſitation of Univerſities, Colledges and Schools.

July 4. 1690.

OUR SOVERAIGN LORD and LADY, the King and Queens Majeſties, and the three Eſtates of Parliament, Conſidering how neceſſary it is for the advancement of Religion and Learning, and for the good of the Church, and peace of the Kingdom, that the Univerſities, Colledges and Schools be provided, and ſerved with pious, able, and qualified Profeſſors, Principals, Regents, Maſters and others, bearing Office therein, well-affected to Their Majeſties, and the Eſtabliſhed Government of Church and State: Therefore Their Majeſties, with Advice of the ſaids three Eſtates of *Parliament*, Do Statute, Ordain, and Enact, that from this time forth, no Profeſſors, Principals, Regents, Maſters, or others bearing Office in any Univerſity, Colledge, or School within this Kingdom, be either admitted, or allowed to continue in the exerciſe of their ſaids Functions, but ſuch as do acknowledge and profeſs, and ſhall ſubſcribe to the Confeſſion of Faith, Ratified and Approven by this preſent *Parliament*: and alſo Swear and Subſcribe the Oath of Allegiance to Their Majeſties; and withal ſhall be found to be of a pious, loyal, and peaceable Converſation, and of good and ſufficient Literature and Abilities for their reſpective Imployments, and ſubmitting to the Government of the Church, now ſettled by Law. And albeit it be Their Majeſties undoubted Right and Prerogative, to Name Viſitors, and cauſe Viſit the foreſaids Univerſities, Colledges, and Schools; yet at this time Their Majeſties are pleaſed to Nominat and Appoint with Advice and Conſent foreſaid, the perſons under-named, *viz.* The Duke of *Hamilton*, Earl of *Argile*, Earl *Crafurd*, Earl *Mariſchal*, Earl *Morton*, Earl *Caſſils*, Earl *Lothian*, Earl *Kintore*, Viſcount of *Arbuthnet*, Viſcount of *Stair*, Lord *Raith*, Lord *Elphingſtoun*, Lord *Cararoſs*, Lord *Carmichael*, Lord *Ruthven*, Maſter of *Burghly*, Maſter of *Stair*, Lord Advocat, Sir *George Campbel* Juſtice-Clerk, the Maſter of *Forbes*, Mr. *Alexander Swinton* of *Merſingtoun*, Mr. *David Home* of *Croßrig*, Mr. *John Hamilton* of *Halcraig*, Senators of the Colledge of Juſtice, Sir *Patrick Hume* of *Polwart*, Sir *John Maxwel* of *Pollock*, Sir *Thomas Burnet* of *Lies*, Sir *Robert Sinclar* of *Stevinſon*, Sir *George Monro* of *Culren*, Mr. *Francis Montgomery* of *Giffins*, Mr. *James Melvil* of *Halhill*, *Broddie* of that ilk, *Grant* of that ilk, *Dumbar* of *Grange*, Mr. *Robert*

bert Lermont of *Balcomy*, *Peter Hay* of *Naughtoun* elder, *Cunninghame* of *Craigens*, *John Dempſter* of *Pitliver*, *Drummond* of *Meggins*, *George Moncrieff* of *Ready* elder, Sir *John Hall* of *Dunglaſs*, Sir *William Hamilton*, *Alexander Spittle* of *Leuchat*, *John Anderſon* of *Dowhill*, Mr. *James Smallat*, Mr. *James Rymer* Miniſter, Mr. *William Tullidaff*, Mr *Gabriel Cunninghame*, Mr. *Edward Fameſon*, Mr. *Alexander Pitcairn*, Mr. *Hugh Anderſon*, Mr. *Gilbert Ruel*, Mr. *Hugh Kennedy*, Mr. *John Law*, Mr. *James Kirkton*, Mr. *David Blair*, Mr. *George Campbel*, Mr. *George Meldrum*, Mr. *Alexander Forbes*, Mr. *William Vilant*, Mr. *William Mitchel*, Mr. *Robert Willie*, Mr. *James M^cgill*, Mr. *Henry Rymer*, and Mr. *John Oliphant*, to be Viſitors, to the effect under-written, *viz.* with full Power and Commiſſion to them, or Major part of them, hereby Declared to be their *Quorum*, to meet and Viſit all Univerſities, Colledges and Schools within this Kingdom, and to take tryal of the preſent Profeſſors, Principals, Regents, Maſters and others bearing Office therein, according to the Qualifications and Rules above-mentioned, and ſuch as ſhall be found to be Erroneous, Scandalous, Negligent, Inſufficient, or Diſaffected to Their Majeſties Government, or who ſhall not ſubſcribe the Confeſſion of Faith, Swear and Subſcribe the Oath of Allegiance, and ſubmit to the Government of the Church, now ſettled by Law, to purge out and remove, as alſo to conſider the Foundations of the ſaids Univerſities, Colledges and Schools, with the Rents and Revenues thereof, and how the ſame have been adminiſtred and mannaged, and to ſet down ſuch Rules and Methods for the good mannagement thereof for hereafter: As likeways, for ordering the ſaids Univerſities, Colledges and Schools, and the profeſſions and manner of Teaching therein, and all things elſe relating thereto, as they ſhall think moſt meet and convenient, according to the Foundations thereof, and conſiſtent with the preſent Eſtabliſht Government of Church and State. And to the effect that theſe Preſents may be more ſurely execute, Their Majeſties, with Advice foreſaid, do further Impower the foreſaids perſons, Viſitors, or their *Quorum*, to appoint Committees of ſuch numbers of their own members, as they ſhall think fit to Visit the ſeveral Univerſities, and Colledges within this Kingdom, with the Schools within the bounds to be deſigned to them, and that according to ſuch Inſtructions and Injunctions as they ſhall think fit to give them: And to the effect, that upon report made by the ſaid Committee, to the aforeſaid Viſitors, or their *Quorum*, they may proceed and conclude thereupon, as they ſhall ſee cauſe. And Their Majeſties appoint the aforeſaid Viſitors to meet at *Edinburgh* upon the twenty third day of *July* inſtant,

inſtant, for the firſt diet of their meeting, with Power to them to adjourn and appoint their own meetings, to ſuch days and places as thereafter they ſhall judge convenient, and this Commiſſion to endure ay and while Their Majeſties Recall and Diſcharge the ſame.

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* *Chriſtmaſs.*

ACT Diſcharging the * Yule *Vacance.*

July 19. 1690.

THE King and Queens Majeſties Conſidering, that the keeping of the *Yule* Vacance hath been a great interruption to the courſe of Juſtice in this Kingdom, to the hinderance and heavy prejudice of the Leidges thereof. Therefore They with, and by the Advice of the Eſtates of *Parliament*, have Diſcharged, and ſimply Diſcharges the foreſaid *Yule* Vacance, and all obſervation thereof in time coming; and Reſcinds and Annuls all Acts, Statutes, Warrands, and Ordinances whatſomever, granted any time heretofore, for keeping of the ſaid *Yule* Vacance, with all cuſtom or obſervation thereof, and Finds and Declares the ſame to be extinct, void, and of no force nor effect in time coming. And Ordains the Court and Seſſion of the Colledge of Juſtice, and Senators and Members thereof, to Conveen and Sit, for the Adminiſtration of Juſtice, without any interruption by the foreſaid *Yule* Vacance, from the firſt day of *November*, to the laſt of *February incluſive* yearly. And Ordains the ſaids Senators, and remanent Members of the Colledge of Juſtice, to riſe the ſaid laſt day of *February*, and to conveen and ſit down again, for Adminiſtration of Juſtice to the Leidges, the firſt day of *June* yearly, and to riſe the laſt day of *July* next thereafter *incluſive*. And alſo Ordains the whole remanent Judges of Inferior Courts within the Kingdom, to proceed in the Adminiſtration of Juſtice within their ſeveral Juriſdictions, without any reſpect to the ſaid *Yule* Vacance, and without any Interruption or Vacation by the ſame *Yule* Vacance, notwithſtanding of any bygone Cuſtom of Obſervation of the ſaid *Yule* Vacance, ſeeing the ſamine is now Diſcharged in manner foreſaid.

ACT

ACT Concerning Patronages.

July 19. 1690.

OUR SOVERAIGN LORD and LADY, the King and Queens Majeſties, Conſidering that the power of preſenting Miniſters to vacant Churches of late exerciſed by Patrons, hath been greatly abuſed, and is inconvenient to be continued in this Realm, Do therefore, with the Advice and Conſent of the Eſtates of *Parliament*, hereby Diſcharge, Caſs, Annul, and make void, the aforeſaid Power, heretofore exerciſed by any Patron, of preſenting Miniſters to any Kirk now Vacant, or that ſhall hereafter happen to Vaik within this Kingdom, with all exerciſe of the ſaid *Power*: And alſo all Rights, Gifts and Infeftments, Acts, Statutes, and Cuſtoms, in ſo far as they may be extended, or underſtood, to eſtabliſh the ſaid Right of *Preſentation*; but prejudice always, of ſuch Miniſters as are duly entred by the foreſaid *Preſentations* (while in uſe) their Right to the Manſe, Gleib, Benefice, Stipend, and other Profits, of their reſpective Churches, as accords: And but prejudice to the Patrons, of their right to imploy the vacant Stipends, on pious uſes, within the reſpective *Paroches*, except where the Patron is *Popiſh*, in which caſe he is to imploy the ſame on pious uſes, by the advice and appointment of the *Presbytery*; and in caſe the *Patron* ſhall fail in applying the vacant Stipend for the uſes foreſaid, that he ſhall loſe his right of Adminiſtration of the vacant Stipend, for that and the next vacancy, and the ſame ſhall be diſpoſed on by the *Presbytry*, to the uſes foreſaid; Excepting always the vacand Stipends, within the bounds of the Synod of *Argile*: And to the effect, the calling and entring Miniſters in all time coming, may be orderly and regularly performed, Their Majeſties, with Conſent of the Eſtates of *Parliament*, Do Statute and Declare, That in caſe of the vacancy of any particular Church, and for ſupplying the ſame with a Miniſter, the Heretors of the ſaid *Paroch* (being *Proteſtants*) and the Elders, are to name and propoſe the perſon to the whole Congregation, to be either approven, or diſapproven by them; and if they diſapprove, that the diſapprovers give in their Reaſons, to the effect the affair may be cognoſced upon by the *Presbytry* of the bounds, at whoſe Judgment, and by whoſe determination the Calling, and Entry of a particular Miniſter, is to be ordered and concluded: And it is hereby Enacted, That if application be not made by the Elderſhip, and Heretors of the *Paroch*,

to the *Presbytry*, for the call and choice of a Miniſter, within the ſpace of ſix Months, after the vacancy, that then the *Presbytry* may proceed to provide the ſaid *P*aroch, and plant a Miniſter in the Church, *tanquam jure devoluto*. It is always hereby Declared, That this Act ſhall be but prejudice of the calling of Miniſters, to Royal Burghs by the Magiſtrats, Town-Council, and Kirk-Seſſion of the Burgh, where there is no Landward *P*aroch, as they have been in uſe before the year 1660. And where there is a conſiderable part of the *P*aroch in Landward, that the Call ſhall be by the Magiſtrats, Town-Council, Kirk-Seſſion, and the Heretors of the Landward *P*aroch. And in lieu and recompenſe of the ſaid Right of Preſentation, hereby taken away; Their Majeſties with Advice and Conſent foreſaid, Statute and Ordain, the Heretors, and Liferenters of each *P*aroch, and the Town-Councils for the Burgh, to pay to the ſaid *P*atrons, betwixt and *Martinmaſs* next, the ſum of ſix hundred merks, proportionally effeiring to their valued Rents in the ſaid *P*aroch, *viz.* two parts by the Heretors, and a third part by the Liferenters, deducing always the *P*atrons own part, effeiring to his proportion as an Heretor, and that upon the ſaid Patron his granting a ſufficient and formal Renunciation of the ſaid right of Preſentation, in favours of the ſaids Heretors, Town-Council for the Burgh, and Kirk-Seſſion. And it is hereby Declared, That as to the *P*aroches, to which Their Majeſties have Right to preſent, upon payment of the ſaid ſix hundred merks to the Clerk of the Theſaury, Their Majeſties ſhall be fully denuded of Their Right of Preſentation, as to that *P*aroch; and as to other Patrons, if they refuſe to accept the ſaid ſix hundred merks, the ſame is to be conſigned in the hands of a reſponſal perſon in the *P*aroch, upon the hazard of the Conſigners, not to be given up to the Patron, until he grant the ſaid Renunciation; allowing in the mean time, the Heretors, and Kirk-Seſſion, to call the Miniſter, conform to this *Act*; and Ordains Letters of Horning to be direct at the Inſtance of the Patron, againſt the Heretors and others, who ſhall not make payment of the ſaid ſix hundred merks, after the ſaid term of *Martinmaſs* next; and likewiſe at the Inſtance of the Heretors, and others willing to pay, againſt theſe who are unwilling: and in caſe the *P*atron be unwilling, to accept the ſaid ſum, or the Heretors and others aforeſaid, unwilling to pay, Ordains Letters of Horning to be direct at the inſtance of Their Majeſties Sollicitor, againſt either of them. And further, Their Majeſties with Advice and Conſent foreſaid, Statute, Enact, and Declare, That the Right of the Teinds of the ſaids *P*aroches, which are not Heretably Diſpoſed, ſhall by vertue of this preſent *Act*, belong to the ſaid *P*atrons,

with

with the burden always of the Miniſters Stipends, Tacks, and Prorogations, already granted of the ſaid Teinds, and of ſuch augmentations of Stipends, future Prorogations, and Erections of new Kirks, as ſhall be found juſt and expedient, providing the ſaids Patrons, getting right to the Teinds, by vertue of this preſent *Act*, and who had no right thereto of before, ſhall be; Likeas, They are hereby obliged to ſell to each Heretor the Teinds of his own Lands, at the rate of ſix years purchaſe, as the ſame ſhall be valued by a Commiſſion, for valuation of Teinds: And whereas there are certain Lands and Annualrents holden of the ſaid Benefices, and Beneficed perſons, from which the Patrons might have ſome benefit ariſing to them; It is hereby Ordained, that the Right of Superiority of the ſaids Lands and Annualrents, ſhall belong to Their *Majeſtes* in all time coming, with all the whole Caſualties and Emoluments thereof, notwithſtanding of any former *Act* of *Parliament* in the contrair; Reſerving notwithſtanding to the Patrons, the Feu-farms, and Feu-mails of the ſaid Superiorities, ay and while they receive payment and ſatisfaction from Their *Majeſties*, of the price thereof, at the rate of 1000 merks for each Chalder of Victual over-head, and for each hundred merks of Feu-mail, except where the ſaid Feu-farms are a part of the Miniſters modified Stipend, or where the Miniſters is, and has been in poſſeſſion thereof by the ſpace of ten years, or where he has the full Benefice, in which caſes they are to be irredeemable. Excepting likewiſe from this *Act* the Superiorities belonging to the Deanry of *Hamilton*, and the Provoſtry of *Bothwell*, whereunto the Duke of *Hamilton* has Right, which are no ways hereby prejudged.

ACT for taking the Oaths of Alledgeance and Aſſurance.

Edinburgh, *the Twenty third day of* May, 1693.

FORASMUCH as the impoſing and taking the Oath of *Alledgeance*, and the *Aſſurance*, enacted in this current *Parliament*, as hereto ſubjoyned, will be a further Security to the *Proteſtant* Religion and Their *Majeſties* Government, in this preſent exigence: Therefore the *King* and *Queens Majeſties*, with Advice and Conſent of the Eſtates of *Parliament*, Statute and Ordain, that the ſaid Oath of *Alledgeance* be Sworn, and the ſame with the foreſaid *Aſſurance*, be Subſcribed by

all Noblemen, and their eldeſt Sons, being paſt Twenty one years of Age, and by all perſons in Offices and Places of publick Truſt, Civil, Eccleſiaſtical and Military, *to wit*, by all Members of Parliament, and Electors of *M*embers of *Parliament*, all Privy Counſellours, all Officers of State, and of the Crown, all the Lords of Seſſion, Advocates, and all others, Members of the Colledge of Juſtice, the Lords of Theſaury and Exchequer, Lords of Juſticiary, and all *M*embers of theſe Courts, and all Officers, and Members of the *Admirality*. and all Officers, and Members of the Chancellary, Writers, and Underkeepers of the Privy-Seal, Poſt-maſters, and their Clerks, all Commiſſioners to the Convention of Burrows, and their Clerk, and the Servants who officiat under him, and the *Agent* for the Royal-Burrows, the Conſervator of the *Scots* Priviledges in *Holland*, and the Factors at the Staple-ports, all Colonels, and other Commiſſionat Officers of the Train-bands, all Perſons who are, or ſhall be Commiſſioners for Valuation, Re-valuation, or rectifying Valuation of Lands, and all Perſons having heretable Offices from the King, not already mentioned in this *Act*, all Preachers and Miniſters of the Goſpel whatſomever, and all Clerks in Church Judicatories and Precenters, and all Heretors voting in the calling of Miniſters, and all others whatſomever, giving voice in the ſaid calling of Miniſters, at their Meeting for that effect, all Perſons in this Kingdom named, or to be named Judges, in Commiſſions of Juſticiary, all *M*embers of the Commiſſion for Valuation of Teinds, and Plantation of Kirks, or other Commiſſions of *Parliament*, all Sheriffs, Stewarts, Bailies of Royalties and Regalities, Commiſſars and their Deputs, Clerks and Fiſcals, Juſtices of Peace, Commiſſioners for the Supply and Exciſe, Officers of the Mint, with their Clerks and Fiſcals, all Procurators before any of the Courts above-mentioned, all Writers to the Signet, all publick Notars, and other perſons imployed in writing, or agenting, the Lyon King at Arms, the Lyon the Deput, Heraulds, Macers, Purſevants, and Meſſengers at Arms, and their Clerk, all Chamberlains, Collectors, Fermorers, Tackſmen, Sub-collectors of Their *M*ajeſties Crown-rents, Cuſtoms, Aſſeſſment, Exciſe, Biſhop-Rents, Vacant Stipends, or any other Moneys belonging, or that ſhall happen to belong to Their *M*ajeſties, all Surveyers, and Waiters for the Cuſtoms and Exciſe, and Clerks in any of theſe Offices, or Imployments, and Clerks of Cocquets, all *M*agiſtrats, Deans of Gild with their Council, Theſaurers, Counſellours, and Clerks of Burghs-Royal, and of Regality, or ſuch as officiat for them, all Deacons of Trades, and Deacon-Conveeners in the ſaid Burghs, and ſuch as have any voice in electing of Deacons of Trades, with all Clerks of Trades, all Jaylors and Keepers of Priſons, and Underkeepers,

keepers, and their Clerks, and all Maſters and Doctors in Univerſities, Colledges, or Schools, and Keepers of publick Liberaries, all Chaplains in Families, and Pedagogues, and Governours to Children and Youth, all Officers in the Army, Forts and Garriſons, and all Maſters of Ships and their Mates. All which perſons, and every one of them, ſhall now, and in all time coming, publickly Swear the ſaid Oath, and ſubſcribe the ſame with the *Aſſurance* in manner following, *viz.* The Officers of State and of the Crown, and Counſellors before the Secret Council, all Noblemen and their eldeſt Sons, paſt Twenty one years of age, and the chief Commanders of the Forces, before the Secret Council, or ſuch as they ſhall appoint, all the Lords of Seſſion, and all Members of the Colledge of Juſtice, and others depending upon them, before the Seſſion, or before the Privy-Council, or ſuch as the Lords ſhall appoint, the Lords of Juſticiary, and thoſe depending upon that Court, in the Juſtice Court, the Lords and others Members of the Exchequer, before the Exchequer, the Lord high *Admiral* and the Judge, and other Officers, and Members of the *Admiralty* before the Court of *Admiralty*, all Judges having Commiſſions of Juſticiary, at the firſt meeting, before they exerce, by vertue of theſe Commiſſions: the Officers and Members of the Chancellory, Writers to, and Under-keepers of the Privy Seal before the Seſſion, or ſuch as the Secret Council ſhall appoint, Commiſſioners to the Convention of Burrows, the Clerk and the Servants who officiat under him, and the Agent for the Burrows, before the Conventions of Burrows: The Conſervator before the Convention of Burrows, or ſuch as the Privy Council ſhall appoint: and the Factors, at Staple-ports before the Conſervator in his Court: Members of the Commiſſion for the Valuation of Tiends, and Plantation of Kirks, or of other Commiſſions before thoſe reſpective Commiſſions, Sheriffs, Stewarts, Bailies of Royalties and Regalities, Commiſſars and their Deputs, Clerks and Fiſcals, before theſe reſpective Courts, Juſtices of Peace, Commiſſioners for the Supply and Exciſe before their Conveener, he firſt qualifying himſelf in their Meeting, the General of the Mint, before the Secret Council, and all other Officers of the Mint, before the General thereof: all Advocates and Procurators, before the reſpective Courts to which they belong: all Notars and other Perſons imployed in Writing, or Agenting before the Lords of Seſſion, or ſuch as the Council ſhall appoint: the Lyon King at Arms before the Secret Council: the Lyon Deput, Heraulds, Purſevants, and Meſſengers at Arms, with the Clerk, before the Lyon in his Court: The Macers before the reſpective Courts wherein they ſerve, or before theſe whom the Council ſhall appoint: Chamberlains, Collectors,

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Fermorers, Tacks-men, and Sub-collectors of the Crown-Rents, Customs, Excise, Bishops-Rents, Surveyers, Waiters and their Clerks, before the Lords of Thesaury and Exchequer, or before whom they shall appoint Collectors of the Supply and Excise, before the Commissioners of Supply and Excise, Magistrats, Deans of Gild with their Council, Thesaurers, Counsellours, and Clerks of Burghs-royal and Regality, Deacons of Trades, and Deacon-conveeners, and these who have a voice in electing of Deacons of Trades, and Clerks of Trades, before the Council of the Burgh: Officers of the Army before the Commander in chief, or whom he shall appoint: And Officers of Forts, before the Secret Council, or such as they shall appoint: Masters of Ships and their Mates, before the Court of *Admiralty*, or such as they shall appoint: And all the other Persons above-ranked, without any special appointment, before such as the Privy Council shall appoint.

And Their Majesties with Consent foresaid, Statute and Ordain, that the whole Persons above-mentioned, shall Swear the said Oath, and Subscribe the same, and the *Assurance* in manner foresaid, betwixt and the Twentieth day of *June* next; for which end, all the Inferiour Courts, are hereby dispensed with, to Sit to the effect foresaid, excepting Electors of Members of Parliament, and Members of the Commissions above-mentioned, and these giving voice in calling of Ministers, and such as have voice in Electing of Deacons of Trades, who are hereby appointed to take the said Oath, and subscribe the same, with the *Assurance*, as follows, *viz.* The Electors of Members of Parliament, before they elect, Members of Commissions, before they exerce the Commissions: And such as have a voice in calling of Ministers, or electing of Deacons of Trades, before they give voice in calling of Ministers, or electing of Deacons of Trades, and also, excepting the Conservater, and the Factors of the Staple Port, who are to swear the said Oath, and subscribe the same, and the *Assurance*, betwixt and the fifteenth day of *August* next. And the said Oath and *Assurance*, sworn and subscribed as above, are to be recorded in the Registers of the respective Courts and Meetings, and the Extracts thereof under the Clerks hands, to be reported to Their Majesties Privy Council, under the pain of Deprivation of the Clerk, for such as are appointed to swear and subscrive, betwixt and the twentieth of *June*, to be reported betwixt and the first of *August* next, and for the rest, within twenty days after their said swearing and subscribing. And it is further Statute and Ordained, that all Persons, who shall hereafter be advanced to, or imployed in any of the foresaids Offices, Trusts, or Stations, shall at their Entry unto, and before their exercing thereof, swear the said Oath, and subscribe the same, and the *Assurance* in manner foresaid,

ſaid, to be recorded in the Regiſters of the reſpective Courts, and reported to Their Majeſties Privy Council, within the ſpace of forty days after taking of the ſame, and exercing the foreſaids Offices, Truſts, Priviledges, and Imployments, which Reports are to be received, and taken in by the Clerks of Privy Council *gratis*, and it is hereby Statute and Ordained, That all Perſons who ſhall obtain any free Gift, or Donations from the Lords of Their Majeſties Privy Council, Theſaury or Exchequer, or ſhall preſent any Signature of Penſion, Rdmiſſion, or containing a *de novo dāmus*, or any other caſualty, except Gifts of Eſcheats, are to take the ſaid Oath and *Aſſurance*, before obtaining the ſaid Gift, or paſſing the ſaid Signature, certifying ſuch of the foreſaids Perſons as are, or ſhall be in any publick Office, Truſt or Imployment, or who ſhall own, or exerce the ſame, without taking the ſaid Oath and *Aſſurance* in manner foreſaid, they ſhall be deprived *ipſo facto* of their ſaids Offices, Truſts and Imployments, and Miniſters provided to Kirks, ſhall be deprived of their Benefices, or Stipends, and Preachers not provided to Kirks, ſhall be puniſhed by Baniſhment or otherways, as the Council ſhall think fit; and all the foreſaid Tackſmen, ſhall be puniſhed as the Privy Council ſhall think fit: And farther that they and all other Perſons, whether above ranked or not, who ſhall not ſwear the ſaid Oath, and ſubſcribe the ſame, and the *Aſſurance*, ſhall not be allowed to keep any Horſes above an hundred Merks price, nor any ſort of Arms, more than a Walking-Sword; certifying, ſuch as ſhall be found to have Horſes and Arms contrair to this Proviſion, either in their own, or in the keeping of others, that both the Owner and the Keeper, ſhall incur the Penalty of one Thouſand Merks, the one half to the Informer, and the other to Their Majeſties; and Their Majeſties with conſent foreſaid, Authorizes and Impowers the Lords of Privy Council, to take ſuch further effectual Methods, for Diſarming theſe Perſons, and ſeaſing of their Horſes above the foreſaid value, as they ſhall judge neceſſar: As likeways, they impower the Council to call before them, all, or any Heretors, or other Perſons, whom they ſhall think fit, whether above ranked or not, and to put the ſaid Oath and *Aſſurance* to them, and in caſe of their Refuſal, to proceed againſt them by Fining, Confining, Impriſonment, or Baniſhment, as they ſhall ſee cauſe; the Fine if they be Heretors, to be the double of their Ceſs or Supply, and further, (if the Council ſhall think fit,) not exceeding an years valued Rent; and for others not Heretors, the third part of their eſcheatable Goods, by and attour the other Penalties, contained in the thirty eight Act of the ſecond Seſſion of this current Parliament; It is alſo hereby enacted, that the ſaid Oaths of *Alledgeance* and *Aſſurance*, are in no caſe to be impoſed, or taken ſeverally

verally, but joyntly, declaring hereby, that theſe who refuſe the one, ſhall be holden as refuſing both. And Their Majeſties with Advice foreſaid, recommends to Their Privy Council, to ſee this Act put to due and vigorous Execution, with all diligence: And it is hereby declared, that the foreſaid general Power granted to the Council, is to endure until the next Seſſion of Parliament allanarly: And Laſtly, it is hereby provided, that ſuch as have already taken and ſubſcribed the ſaid Oath, and ſubſcribed the *Aſſurance*, ſhall not be obliged, by vertue hereof, to take and ſubſcribe the ſame again in the ſame Capacity.

The Oath of Alledgiance.

I A. B. *Do ſincerely Promiſe and Swear, that I will be faithful, and bear true Alledgiance to Their Majeſties, King* WILLIAM *and Queen* MARY; So help me GOD.

The Aſſurance.

I A. B. *Do in ſincerity of my Heart, Aſſert, Acknowledge and Declare, that Their Majeſties King* WILLIAM *and Queen* MARY, *are the only Lawful undoubted Soveraigns of this Realm, as well* de jure, *That is of Right, King and Queen, as* de facto, *That is in the Poſſeſſion and Exerciſe of the Government: And therefore, I do ſincerely and faithfully Promiſe and Engage, that I will with Heart and Hand, Life and Goods, maintain and defend Their Majeſties Title and Government, againſt the late King* James, *and his Adherents, and all other Enemies, who either by open or ſecret Attempts, ſhall Diſturb or Diſquiet Their Majeſties in the Poſſeſſion and Exerciſe thereof.*

Extracted forth of the Records of Parliament, by

TARBAT. *Cls. Regiſtri,*

God ſave King William *and Queen* Mary.

ACT

ACT For Settling the Quiet and Peace of the Church.

Edinburgh, *the* 12*th day of* **June,** 1693.

OUR SOVERAIGN LORD and LADY, the King and Queens Majeſties, with Advice and Conſent of the Eſtates of Parliament, Ratifie, Approve, and perpetually Confirm the fifth Act of the ſecond Seſſion of this current Parliament, Intituled, *Act Ratifying the Confeſſion of Faith, and ſettling Presbyterian Church-Government*, in the whole Heads, Articles, and Clauſes thereof; And Do further Statute and Ordain, That no perſon be admitted, or continued for hereafter, to be a Miniſter or Preacher, within this Church, unleſs that he having firſt Taken and Subſcribed the Oath of *Allegiance*, and Subſcribed the *Aſſurance* in manner appointed by another Act of this preſent Seſſion of Parliament, made thereanent: Do alſo Subſcribe the Confeſſion of Faith, Ratified in the foreſaid fifth Act of the ſecond Seſſion of this Parliament, declaring the ſame to be the Confeſſion of his Faith, and that he owns the Doctrine therein contained, to be the true Doctrine which he will conſtantly adhere to: As likewiſe, that he owns and acknowledges *Presbyterian* Church-Government, as ſettled by the foreſaid fifth Act of the ſecond Seſſion of this Parliament, to be the only Government of this Church, and that he will ſubmit thereto, and concur therewith, and never endeavour, directly or indirectly, the prejudice, or ſubverſion thereof. And Their Majeſties, with Advice and Conſent foreſaid, Statute and Ordain, That * Uniformity of Worſhip, and of the adminiſtration of all puplick Ordinances within this Church be obſerved by all the ſaids Miniſters and Preachers, as the ſamine are at preſent performed, and allowed therein, or ſhall be hereafter declared by the authority of the ſame: and that no Miniſter or Preacher be admitted or continued for hereafter, unleſs that he ſubſcribe to obſerve, and do actually obſerve the foreſaid Uniformity: And for the more effectual Settling the Quiet and Peace of this Church, The Eſtates of Parliament do hereby make an humble Ad-

* i. e. *That none of the Forms be retained in the Publick Worſhip of God, that are not uſed by the Presbyterians*, viz. *The Lords Prayer, the Doxology, the Apoſtles Creed; and that the Holy Scriptures muſt not be read in the Publick Aſſemblies as heretofore.*

dreſs

Majeſties, That They would be pleaſed to Call a General Aſſembly, for the ordering the affairs of the Church; and to the end that all the preſent Miniſters poſſeſſing Churches, not yet admitted to the exerciſe of the foreſaid Church-Government, conform to the ſaid Act, and who ſhall qualifie themſelves in manner foreſaid, and ſhall apply to the ſaid Aſſembly, or the other Church Judicatures competent in an orderly way, each man for himſelf, be received to partake with them in the Government thereof: Certifying ſuch as ſhall not qualifie themſelves, and apply to the ſaid Aſſembly, or other Judicatures within the ſpace of thirty days, after meeting of the ſaid firſt Aſſembly, in manner foreſaid, that they may be Depoſed by the Sentence of the ſaid Aſſembly and other Judicatures *tam ab officio, quam a beneficio*; and withal Declaring, That if any of the ſaids Miniſters who hath not been hitherto received into the Government of the Church, ſhall offer to qualifie themſelves, and to apply in manner foreſaid, they ſhall have Their Majeſties full Protection, ay and while they ſhall be admitted, and received in manner foreſaid; providing always that this Act, and the benefit thereof, ſhall no ways be extended to ſuch of the ſaids Miniſters as are Scandalous, Erroneous, Negligent, or Inſufficient, and againſt whom the ſame ſhall be verified within the ſpace of thirty days after the ſaid application; but theſe and all others in like manner guilty, are hereby Declared to be liable and ſubject to the Power and Cenſure of the Church as accords: and to the effect that the Repreſentation of this Church in its General Aſſemblies, may be the more equal in all time coming, Recommends it to the firſt Aſſembly that ſhall be Called to appoint Miniſters to be ſent as Commiſſioners from every *Presbytry*, not in equal number, which is manifeſtly unequal where *Prerbytries* are ſo; but in a due proportion to the Churches and Parochines within every *Presbytry*, as they ſhall judge convenient; and it is hereby Declared, That all Shool-maſters, and Teachers of Youth in Schools, are, and ſhall be lyable to the Tryal, Judgment and Cenſure of the *Presbytries* of the Bound for their Sufficiency, Qualifications and Deportment in the ſaid Office. And Laſtly, Their Majeſties with advice and conſent foreſaid, Do hereby Statute and Ordain, That the Lords of Their Majeſties Privy Council, and all other Magiſtrats, Judges and Officers of Juſtice, give all due aſſiſtance for making the Sentences and Cenſures of the Church, and Judicatures thereof to be obeyed, or otherways effectual as accords.

Extracted forth of the Records of Parliament, by

TARBAT, *Cls. Regiſt.*

GOD *Save King* William *and Queen* Mary.

ACT

An ACT of COUNCIL.

At Edinburgh, Dec. 24. 1689.

THE Lords of His Majeſty's Privy Council, conſidering, that by the Act of the Meeting of Eſtates of the date the thirteenth day of *April* laſt, there is a difference made betwixt the Miniſters then in poſſeſſion, and exerciſe of their Miniſtry, at their reſpective Churches, and thoſe who were not ſo. And that the caſe of the Miniſters who were not in the actual exerciſe of their Miniſterial Function, the thirteenth day of *April* laſt, lies yet under the conſideration of the Parliament, and leſt in the mean time they may call and purſue for the Stipends (alledged) due to them, or put in execution the Decrees and Sentences already obtained at their inſtance for the ſame, before the Eſtates of Parliament can meet, and give the determinations in the points. Therefore the ſaid Lords of Privy Council, finding that the Caſe foreſaid depending before the Parliament is not obvious to be cognoſced upon, and decided by the Inferiour Judges, but that the ſame ſhould be left entire to the deciſion of the Parliament, have thought fit to ſignifie to all Inferiour Courts and Miniſters of the Law, that the matter above-mentioned, is depending before the Parliament, to the effect they may regulate and govern themſelves in the judging of all Proceſſes to be intented before them upon the ſaid matter, or in executing the Sentences already pronounced thereupon, as they will be anſwerable.

Sic ſubſcribitur, *Crawford, I. P. D. S. Con.*

ACT anent Miniſters that have not prayed for the King and Queen.

July 22. 1690.

THE Eſtates of Parliament taking into their Conſideration, that ſeveral Miniſters deprived for not Praying publickly for King *William* and Queen *Mary*, as King and Queen of this Realm, and not Reading the *Proclamation* of the Eſtates, emitted upon the thirteenth day of *April*, One thouſand ſix hundred eighty nine, for that effect, are by their Sentence of Deprivation expreſly prohibited to exerciſe any part of their Miniſterial function within the Paroches from which they were deprived, Do nevertheleſs now far more perniciouſly and dangerouſly diffuſe the poyſon of their Diſaffection, by taking the liberty to preach and pray at other Churches, and elſewhere, where they neglect to pray for King *William* and Queen *Mary*, in manner enjoyned by the ſaid *Proclamation*, to the manifeſt contempt of publick Authority, and the ſtirring up and fomenting the diſaffection of the people to Their Majeſties, and the preſent Government, and the encouragement of all their Enemies. Therefore Our Soveraign Lord and Lady, the King and Queens Majeſties, with Advice and Conſent of the ſaid Eſtates of *Parliament*, Do hereby prohibit and diſcharge the whole foreſaid Miniſters, Deprived as ſaid is, to preach or exerciſe any part of the Miniſterial Function, either in Churches or elſewhere, upon any pretext whatſomever, until firſt they preſent themſelves before the Lords of Their Majeſties Secret Council, and there in preſence of the Lords thereof, Take, Swear, and Subſcribe the Oath of Allegiance, and alſo engage themſelves under their Hands, to pray for King *William* and Queen *Mary*, as King and Queen of this Realm, and not to own or acknowledge the late King *James* the Seventh for their King, in any ſort, conform to the Tenor of the ſaid *Proclamation*; Certifying ſuch Miniſters as ſhall do in the contrary, that they ſhall be proceeded againſt as perſons diſaffected, and Enemies to Their Majeſties Government, with all Rigor: And further, Their Majeſties, with Advice and Conſent foreſaid, ordain the ſaid *Proclamation*, and Act of the Eſtates of the King-

dom,

dom, to be put to further Execution againſt all ſuch Miniſters, who have not as yet given Obedience thereto, by Praying for Their Majeſties in manner foreſaid; and that the Lords of Their Majeſties Privy Council proceed therein, or impower the Sheriffs and Magiſtrats of Burghs, to do the ſame within their reſpective bounds, as they ſhall ſee cauſe.

ACT for Security of Their Majeſties Government.

July 22. 1690.

THE Eſtates of *Parliament* Conſidering how juſt and neceſſary it is, for the Security of Their Majeſties Government, and the Peace of the Kingdom, that all Their Subjects be Men of Integrity, well and dutifully affected, and that others who are otherways inclined may be diſcovered; and that the late King *James* does ſtill pretend a Title, and doth maintain a War againſt Their Majeſties, and by many Contrivancies, endeavours to Divert Their Majeſties Leidges from their Allegiance, and for this end there is a diſtinction betwixt a King *de facto*, and a King *de jure*, cunningly of late ſpread abroad, thereby to weaken and invalidat the Allegiance ſworn to Their Majeſties: Therefore the King and Queens Majeſties, with the Advice and Conſent of the Eſtates of *Parliament*, Enacts, Statutes and Ordains, That all perſons, who in Law, are obliged to Swear and take the Oath of Allegiance; and all other Subjects of this Kingdom, whom the Council ſhall think fit

fit to put the Oath of Allegiance to, (being hereby authorized to do the ſamine to every Subject of this Realm they ſee cauſe) ſhall Subſcribe the Certificat and Aſſurance under-written; Declaring, that ſuch as ſhall refuſe to Subſcribe the ſamine, ſhall be reputed Diſaffected to Their Majeſties Government, and be deprived of any Offices, Benefices, and Juriſdictions which they enjoy, and be obliged to give ſuch ſecurity for their good behaviour, and that they ſhall act nothing againſt the Government, as Their Majeſties High Commiſſioner, or the Lords of His Majeſties Privy Council, ſhall think fit, providing it extend no further than Bond, Caution, or perſonal Impriſonment, ſecuring of Horſe and Arms, or Garriſon of Houſes, &c.

I A. B. *Do in the ſincerity of my Heart, Aſſert, Acknowledge and Declare, That Their Majeſties King* WILLIAM *and Queen* MARY, *are the only Lawful Undoubted Soveraigns, King and Queen of* Scotland, *as well* de jure, *as* de facto, *and in the Exerciſe of the Government: And therefore, I do ſincerely and faithfully Promiſe and Engage, that I will with Heart and Hand, Life and Goods, Maintain and Defend Their Majeſties Title and Government, againſt the late King* James, *his Adherents, and all other Enemies, who either by open or ſecret Attempts, ſhall Diſturb or Diſquiet Their Majeſties in the Exerciſe thereof.*

ACT

ACT of the General Aſſembly, *anent a Solemn National Faſt and Humiliation, with the Cauſes thereof.*

At Edinburgh, November 12. 1690. *Poſtmeridiem, Seſſ.* 25.

THE General Aſſembly, having taken into their moſt ſerious Conſideration, the late great and general Defection of this Church and Kingdom, have thought fit to appoint a Day of Solemn Humiliation and Faſting, for Confeſſion of Sins, and making Supplication to our Gracious God, to forgive and remove the guilt thereof: In order whereunto, they have Ordained the Confeſſion of Sins, and Cauſes of Faſting following, to be duly Intimat and Publiſhed; Recommending it moſt earneſtly to all Perſons, both Miniſters and others, That every one of us may not only ſearch and try our own hearts and ways, and ſtir up our ſelves to ſeek the Lord; But alſo in our Stations, and as we have acceſs, Deal with one another, in all love and tenderneſs, to prepare for ſo great and neceſſary a Duty, that we may find mercy in God's ſight, and He may be graciouſly reconciled to our Land in our Lord Jeſus, and take delight to dwell among us.

Although our gracious God hath of late, for his own Names ſake, wrought great and wonderful things, for *Brittain* and *Ireland*, and for this Church and Nation in particular; Yet the Inhabitants thereof have cauſe to remember their own evil ways, and to loath themſelves in their own ſight for their Iniquities.

Alas!

Alas! We, and our Fathers, our Princes, our Paſtors, and People of all Ranks have ſinned, and have been under great Tranſgreſſion to this day: For though our gracious God ſhewed early kindneſs to this Land, in ſending the Goſpel amongſt us, and afterward in our Reformation from Popiſh Superſtition and Idolatry; and it had the Honour, beyond many Nations, of being after our firſt Reformation, ſolemnly devoted unto God, both Prince and People, yet we have dealt treacherouſly with the Lord, and been unſtedfaſt in his Covenant, and have not walked ſuitably to our Mercies received from him, nor obligations to him: Through the mercy of God this Church had attained to a great purity of Doctrine, Worſhip, and Government, but this was not accompanied with ſuitable perſonal Reformation, neither was our Fruit anſwerable to the pains taken on us by Word and Work; We had much Goſpel-preaching, but too little Goſpel-practice; too many went on in open wickedneſs, and ſome had but a form of Godlineſs, denying the power thereof; many alſo who had the Grace of God in truth fell from their firſt love, and fell under ſad languiſhings and decays; and when for our ſins the anger of the Lord had divided us, and we were brought under the feet of ſtrangers, and many of our Brethren killed, others taken Captive and ſold as ſlaves, yet we ſinned ſtill, and after we were freed from the yoke of ſtrangers, inſtead of returning to the Lord, and being led to Repentance by his goodneſs, the Land made open Defection from the good ways of the Lord: many behaved as if they had been delivered to work abomination, the flood-gates of Impiety were opened, and a deluge of wickedneſs did over-ſpread the Land. Who can without grief and ſhame remember the ſhameful debauchery and drunkenneſs that then was? And this accompanied with horrid and helliſh curſing and ſwearing, and followed with

frequent

frequent Filthineſs, Adulteries, and other Abominations, and the Reprover was hated, and he that departed from Iniquity made himſelf a reproach or prey. And when by theſe, and ſuch like corrupt practices, Mens Conſciences were debauched, they proceeded to ſacrifice the Intereſt of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and Priviledges of his Church to the luſts and will of Men; The Supremacy was advanced in ſuch a way, and to ſuch an height, as never any Chriſtian Church acknowledged; the Government of the Church was altered, and Prelacy (which hath been always grievous to this Nation) introduced, without the Churches conſent, and contrair to the ſtanding Acts of our National Aſſemblies, both which the preſent Parliament hath (bleſſed be God) lately found; And yet nevertheleſs, of the then ſtanding Miniſtry of *Scotland*, many did ſuddenly and readily comply with that alteration of the Government, ſome out of Pride and Covetouſneſs or Man-pleaſing, ſome through infirmity or weakneſs, or fear of Man, and want of Courage and Zeal for God; many faithful Miniſters were thereupon caſt out, and many Inſufficient and Scandalous Men thruſt in on their Charges, and many Families ruined, becauſe they would not own them as their Paſtors.

And alas! It is undeniable, there hath been under the late Prelacy, a great decay of Piety, ſo that it was enough to make a man be nicknam'd a Phanatick, if he did not run to the ſame exceſs of riot with others.

And ſhould it not be lamented, for it cannot be denyed, there hath been in ſome a dreadful Atheiſtical Boldneſs againſt God, ſome have diſputed the Being

of God, and his Providence, the Divine Authority of the Scriptures, the Life to come, and Immortality of the Soul, yea, and ſcoffed at theſe things.

There hath been alſo an horrid Prophanation of the Holy and Dreadful Name of God, by Curſing and Swearing: Ah! there hath been ſo much Swearing and Forſwearing amongſt us, that no Nation under Heaven have been more guilty in this than we; ſome by ſwearing raſhly or ignorantly, ſome falſly, by breaking their Oaths, and impoſing and taking ungodly and unlawful Oaths and Bonds whereby the Conſciences of many have been polluted and ſeared, and many ruined and oppreſſed for refuſing and not taking them.

There hath alſo been a great neglect of the Worſhip of God, too much in publick, but eſpecially in Families, and in ſecret.

The wonted care of Religious ſanctifying the Lord's Day is gone, and in many places the Sabbath hath been, and is ſhamefully prophaned.

The Land alſo hath been full of bloody Crimes, and Cities full of Violence, and much innocent Blood ſhed, ſo that Blood touched Blood; yea, *Sodom*'s ſins have abounded amongſt us, Pride, fulneſs of Bread, Idleneſs, Vanities of Apparel, and ſhameful ſenſuality filled the Land.

And alas! how great hath been the Cry of Oppreſſion, and Unrighteouſneſs, Iniquity hath been eſtabliſhed by a Law, there hath been a great perverting of Juſtice, by making and executing unrighteous Statutes

Statutes and Acts, and ſad Perſecutions of many for their Conſcience towards God.

It is alſo matter of Lamentation, that under this great Defection there hath been too general a fainting, not only amongſt profeſſors of the Goſpel, but alſo amongſt Miniſters; yea, even amongſt ſuch, who in the main things did endeavour to maintain their Integrity, in not giving ſeaſonable and neceſſary Teſtimony againſt the Defections and Evils of the Time, and keeping a due diſtance from them, and ſome on the other hand managed their Zeal with too little Diſcretion and Meekneſs.

It is alſo matter of Humiliation, that when Differences fell out amongſt theſe, who did own Truth, and bear witneſs againſt the Courſe of Defection, they were not managed with due Charity and Love, but with too much heat and bitterneſs, injurious Reflections uſed againſt pious and worthy men on all hands, and ſcandalous Diviſions occaſioned, and the ſucceſs of the Goſpel greatly obſtructed thereby, and ſome dangerous Principles drunk in: And after all this, there were ſhameful advances towards Popery, the Abomination of the Maſs was ſet up in many places, and Popiſh Schools erected, and ſeverals fell to Idolatry.

And though the Lord hath put a ſtop to the Courſe of Defection, and of his great mercy given us ſome reviving from our Bondage; yet we have ſad cauſe to regrate and bemoan, that few have a due ſenſe of our mercy, or walk anſwerable thereto, few are turned to the Lord in Truth, but the wicked go on to do wickedly, and there is found amongſt us to this day ſhameful ingratitude for our mercies, Horrid impeniten-

cy under our ſins, yea, even amongſt thoſe who ſtand moſt up for the Defence of the Truth: and amongſt many in our Armies, there is woful Prophaneneſs and Debauchery. And though we profeſs to acknowledge, there can be no pardon of Sins, no Peace and Reconciliation with God, but by the Blood of Jeſus Chriſt; yet few know Him, or ſee the Neceſſity and Excellency of the Knowledge of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; few ſee their need of Him, or eſteem, deſire, or receive Him, as he is offered in the Goſpel; few are acquainted with Faith in Jeſus Chriſt, and living by Faith on Him, as made of the Father unto us, Wiſdom, Righteouſneſs, Sanctification, and Redemption; and few walk as becometh the Goſpel, and imitate our Holy Lord in Humility, Meekneſs, Self-denial, Heavenly-mindedneſs, Zeal for *GOD*, and Charity towards Men: But as there is even until now a great contempt of the Goſpel, a great Barrenneſs under it; ſo a deep Security under our Sin and Danger, a great want of Piety toward God, and Love towards Men, with a woful Selfiſhneſs, every one ſeeking their own things, few the things of Chriſt, or the publick Good, or one anothers Welfare: And finally, the moſt part more ready to cenſure the ſins of others, than to repent of their own.

Our Iniquities are increaſed over our heads, and our Treſpaſſes are grown up into the Heavens, they are many in number, and hainous in their nature, and grievouſly aggravated, as having been contrair to great Light and Love, under ſignal Mercies and Judgments, after Confeſſion and Supplication, and notwithſtanding of our Profeſſion, Promiſes and Solemn Vowing, and Covenanting with God to the contrair.

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Have we not then ſad cauſe of deep Sorrow and Humiliation? And may we not fear, if we do not repent, and turn from the evil of our ways, and return to the Lord with all our hearts, that He return to do us evil, after He hath done us good, and be angry with us, until he hath conſumed us?

Let us therefore humble our ſelves by Faſting and Praying, let us ſearch out our ſins, and conſider our ways, and confeſs theſe, and other our ſins, with Sorrow and Deteſtation; Let us turn unto the Lord with Faſting and Weeping, and with Mourning; Let us firmly Reſolve and ſincerely Engage to amend our ways and doings, and return unto the Lord our God, with all our heart, and earneſtly pray, that for the blood of the Lamb of God, our ſins may be forgiven, and our backſlidings healed, and we may yet become a righteous Nation, keeping the Truth, that Religion and Righteouſneſs may flouriſh, and Love, and Charity abound, and all the Lord's people may be of one mind in the Lord: and in order to all theſe, that the Word of the Lord may have free courſe, and be glorified, and that the Preaching of the Word, and Diſpenſing of the Sacraments, may be accompanied with the wonted Preſence, Power and Bleſſing of the Spirit of the Lord; That the Lord would preſerve and bleſs our gracious *King* and *Queen*, *William* and *Mary*, and eſtabliſh Their Throne by Righteouſneſs and Religion, and grant to theſe Nations, Peace and Truth together; and for that End bleſs and proſper His Majeſties Councils, and Forces by Sea and Land, and thoſe of the Princes and States his Allies, for God and his Truth, that Inferiour Rulers may rule in the fear of God, and Judges be clothed with Righteouſneſs, and that many faithful Labourers may be ſent out into the Lord's Vineyard, and they who are

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ſent, may find mercy to be faithful, and be bleſt with Succeſs, That Families may be as little Churches of Chriſt, and that the Lord would pour out His Spirit on all Ranks of People, that they may be holy in all manner of Converſation, and God may delight to dwell amongſt us, and to do us good.

And while we pray for our ſelves, let us not forget our Brethren in Forreign Churches, with whom, alas! we had too little Sympathy; Nay, let us pray, that all the ends of the Earth, may ſee the Salvation of God; and that He would bring his ancient people of the *Jews* to the acknowledgement of Jeſus Chriſt; and that he would haſten the ruine of Romiſh *Babylon*, and advance the Reformation in Chriſtendom, and preſerve and bleſs the Reſormed Churches; That He would pity His oppreſſed People, the *French Proteſtants*, and gather them out of all places, whither they have been ſcattered in the cloudy and dark day; and that he would be the Defence, Strength and Salvation of any of his People, who are in War or Danger by Infidel or Popiſh adverſaries, in *Europe* or *America*. And in particular, that the Lord would be Gracious to *Ireland*, and ſanctifie to his People there, both their diſtreſs and deliverance; and perfect what concerneth them, that he would convert the Natives there to the Truth, and reduce that Land to Peace; and appoint Salvation for Walls and Bullwarks to *Brittain*.

For all theſe Cauſes and Reaſons, The General Aſſembly hath appointed the Second Thurſday of *January* next, to be Obſerved in all the Congregations of the Church and Nation, as a day of Solemn Faſting and Humiliation, and Prayer; Beſeeching and Obteſting all, both Paſtors, and People of all Ranks to be ſincere and ſerious, in Humili-

Humiliation and Supplication, and univerſal Reformation, as they would wiſh to find mercy of the Lord, and have deſerved wrath averted, and would obtain the Bleſſing of the Lord upon themſelves and Poſterity after them; and that the Lord may delight in us, and our Land may be as Married to him. And Ordains all Miniſters, either in Kirks or Meeting-houſes, to read this preſent Act publickly from the Pulpit, a Sabbath or two before the ſaid Day of Humiliation: and that the ſeveral Presbyteries take care, that it be carefully Obſerved in their reſpective bounds. And where, in regard of Vacancies, the Day hereby appointed, cannot be obſerved, the Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Humiliation, to be kept ſome other Day with the firſt convenient opportunity. And appoints the Commiſſion for Viſitation, to apply to the Council, for their Civil Sanction to the Obſervation thereof.

Extracted out of the Records of Aſſembly, by

JO. SPALLING, Cls. Syn. National.

FINIS.